

Message Text

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ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 /002 W
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R 240100Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2333
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 1012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS(10-3 PASSPORT APLICATIONS)

SUBJ: 8FAM 242.61

REF: A STATE 294226, B JAKARTA 15155

1. PARA 3 REF A REQUESTS EMBASSY TO REPORT ANY CONDITIONS WARRANTING DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION OR NEED TO RECONSIDER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A. EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES DEPARTMENT CONSIDER EXPANDING CRITERIA PERMITTING EXCEPTION TO PERSONAL APPEARANCE FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS.

2. IN VIEW OF VAST AREA OF JAKARTA CONSULAR DISTRICT WE BELIEVE REQUIREMENT OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT EMBASSY IN JAKARTA FOR PERSONS NOT LIVING ON ISLAND OF JAVA IS UNDUE PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP. MORE REMOTE PARTS OF IRIAN JAYA ARE OVER 2000 MILES FROM JAKARTA BY AIR; THIS WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO MAKING APPLICANTS IN PANAMA GO TO CHICAGO TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS. AIR TRANSPORT IS IRREGULAR AND SOMETIMES UNAVAILABLE EVEN THOUGH SCHEDULED. TRIP FROM REMOTE AREAS TO JAKARTA AND RETURN COULD TAKE UP TO A WEEK AND FOR A GOOD-SIZED FAMILY THIS COULD RUN INTO THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, AS WELL AS VALUABLE TIME. MOST FAMILIES IN REMOTE AREAS ARE MISSIONARY OR BUSINESS AND WHILE SOME COMPANIES MIGHT UNDER SOME CIRCUMSTANCES PAY FOR TRAVEL THERE IS SERIOUS RESENTMENT. THE MISSIONARY FAMILIES MUST PAY OUT OF OWN POCKET AND ARE THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD SUCH EXPENSE. IRIAN JAYA (FORMERLY DUTCH NEW GUINEA) IS NOT MOST
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EXTREME EXAMPLE OF TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES, FOR OTHER ISLANDS

NOT AS DISTANT HAVE MUCH WORSE TRAVEL CONNECTIONS WITH
JAKARTA (EXAMPLES: SULAWESI, MOLUCCAS)

3. FACT THAT REF A GRANTS SOME EXCEPTIONS INDICATES
DEPARTMENT AGREES RESIDENTS OF REMOTE AREAS HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
PROBLEMS IN MAKING PERSONAL APPEARANCE FOR PASSPORT APPLICATION.
PERMISSIBLE EXCEPTIONS, HOWEVER, AFFORD HARDLY ANY REAL RELIEF.
REQUIREMENT THAT WRITTEN REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TOGETHER
WITH EMBASSY'S WRITTEN RESPONSE IN AGREEMENT WERVES LITTLE
REAL PURPOSE IN OUR VIEW. LIMITING EXCEPTIONS TO PERSONS
WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED OR APPLIED AT POST OVERLOOKS
THE LARGE GROUP OF NEW-BORN BABIES WHOSE PARENTS ARE
PREPARED TO SUBMIT BIRTH CERTIFICATES, MARRIAGE CERTI-
FICATES, VALID U.S. PASSPORTS AND OTHER SUPPORTING
MATERIAL, ALL APPROPRIATELY NOTARIZED AND ATTESTED
BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUT ARE NOW REQUIRED TO COME TO
JAKARTA TO APPLY FOR PASSPORTS. LASTLY, EMBASSY HAS
BEEN PERFORMING AUTHENTICATIONS WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE
IN ANY U.S. COURT, AND CONSIDERS THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD
BE ENTIRELY ADEQUATE FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS.

4. NOTARIES IN INDONESIA ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED (SEE
SURABAYA'S OM OF NOV. 15, 1975) AND EMBASSY (AS WELL
AS CONSULATES AT MEDAN AND SURABAYA) HAS BEEN
METICULOUS IN AUTHENTICATION OF NOTARY SIGNATURES.
ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO USING NOTARIES WOULD BE MORE FREQUENT
VISITS BY CONSULAR OFFICERS TO REMOTE AREAS AND AS LONG
AS EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION IS LIMITED TO TWO OFFICERS
THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. IN REMOTE PARTS
BUPATIS (DISTRICT GOVERNORS) AND CAMATS (TOWN AREA
ADMINISTRATORS) ARE GOI OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER
OATHS BY INDONESIAN LAW.

5. EMBASSY'S PRESENT INABILITY TO SCHEDULE REGULAR
VISITS BY ONE OF THE CONSULAR OFFICERS TO OUTLYING
ISLANDS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT WOULD SEEM TO CON-
STITUTE "ABSENCE OF CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS"
AS SET FORTH IN 8FAM 242.61 PROCEDURES WHICH ALSO NOTES
THAT FEE OF \$1 IS CHARGED UNDER ITEM NO.2 OF TARIFF OF
FEES FOR EXAMINATION OF ANY PASSPORT APPLICATION EXECUTED
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BEFORE A FOREIGN OFFICIAL. THIS LEADS US TO CONCLUDE
CONDITIONS EXIST TO ALLOW SUCH APPLICATIONS AND THAT
THIS IS PERMISSIBLE.

6. NO OTHER CONSULAR ACTION IN RECENT TIME HAS EVOKED
SUCH WIDE DISSATISFACTION AND CRITICISM AS REQUIREMENT
AS STATED IN REF A THAT PASSPORT APPLICANTS APPEAR IN
PERSON AT EMBASSY (SEE REF B). ONE AMERICAN BUSINESS-

MAN FROM SOUTH SUMATRA CABLED AMBASSADOR THAT
"OUR PEOPLE HAVE HAD MORE PROBLEMS WITH PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS BEING TURNED DOWN IN JAKARTA FOR MINOR
TECHNICALITIES THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN EMBASSY OR
CONSULATE WE HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED." CONSIDERING CIRCUM-
STANCES OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS
THIS REACTION. OFFICER OF A LARGE U.S. FIRM IN IRIAN
JAYA HAS APPOINTMENT WITH CONSULAR OFFICER FEBRUARY 2
TO DISCUSS PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND WE BELIEVE WE KNOW
WHAT POINTS HE PLANS TO MAKE.

7. CONSEQUENTLY WE STRONGLY URGE THAT GUIDELINES OF
REF A BE LIBERALIZED TO PERMIT SIGNING PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS BEFORE LOCAL NOTARY WITHOUT NEED FOR
PRIOR APPLICATION IN WRITING. THIS SHOULD CERTAINLY
BE PERMITTED FOR APPLICANTS NOT LIVING ON ISLANDS OF
JAVA OR SUMATRA. IN LIGHT OF SIZE AND UNRELIABLE
TRANSPORT (PARTICULARLY ON SUMATRA) THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT
ALSO CONSIDER EXTENDING THIS PROCEDURE TO COVER
APPLICANTS WHO COULD NOT VISIT EMBASSY (OR CONSULATE)
AND RETURN HOME ON SAME DAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART01012
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-1067
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760125/aaaaavsu.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PPTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 8FAM 242.61
TAGS: CPAS, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006